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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0234
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0373
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
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RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 000497

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/18/2019
TAGS: [AORC](#) [EAID](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [MZ](#)
SUBJECT: THE DEFENSE MINISTER ON MADAGASCAR

REF: SECSTATE 35767

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Todd C. Chapman, Reasons 1.4(b+d)

¶1. (C) GRM Defense Minister Filipe Nhussi asked the Charge for the USG perspective on Madagascar on April 14. Drawing from reftel talking points, the Charge indicated that what had happened in Madagascar was nothing short of an old-style coup and bad for the region. He continued it was especially unfortunate for the country's poor who would suffer with the reduction in foreign assistance.

¶2. (C) Nhussi indicated that he had been in touch with his counterpart in Swaziland, as they were considering future steps via the Political/Security Organ of SADC, though since Madagascar was no longer part of SADC, he was not certain what those next steps might be. In a moment of candor, the Minister said he was tired of having to attend meetings about 'problem countries' like Zimbabwe and now Madagascar when he had more constructive issues he wished to attend to locally.
Chapman